



**Adult Sunday School Lesson Summary for March 16, 2008
Released on Wednesday, March 12, 2008**

“Chosen to Build the Temple”

Printed Text: 1 Chronicles 28:5–10, 20, 21.

Background Scripture: 1 Chronicles 28.

Devotional Reading: Psalm 132.

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: 1 Chronicles 28:5-10, 20-21

5 And of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.

6 And he said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts: for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.

7 Moreover I will establish his kingdom for ever, if he be constant to do my commandments and my judgments, as at this day.

8 Now therefore in the sight of all Israel the congregation of the LORD, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the LORD your God: that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you for ever.

9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

10 Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.

20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

21 And, behold, the courses of the priests and the Levites, even they shall be with thee for all the service of the house of God: and there shall be with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skilful man, for any manner of service: also the princes and all the people will be wholly at thy commandment.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

In the first two lessons of this quarter, we have seen our texts from 1 Chronicles paralleled in 2 Samuel. But today’s lesson text from 1 Chronicles 28 has no parallel in 1 Kings 1–2, where we would expect to find such a parallel if it existed. The reason seems to be that the author of Chronicles had a particular interest in recording the beginnings of the temple that the author of Kings did not have. We see much emphasis in Chronicles on the skilled craftsmen who participated in this project.

God had chosen Solomon to see this task through (see 1 Chronicles 28:5, 6, 10; 29:1). No other person was to launch this project. Even though David wanted to build the temple and had collected materials for it, God forbade him because he had been a man of war and had shed blood (1 Chronicles 28:3).

David undoubtedly was aware of the divine choices that God had made through the centuries. Judah had been elevated above his brothers (see Genesis 49:8–10), and David himself had been elevated above his own brothers as well (1 Chronicles 28:4). In a sense, Solomon was elevated above his father, David, in being privileged to build the temple. The temple had to be built by a man of peace, which is the meaning of Solomon's name. Solomon's lengthy reign was characterized by peace (1 Kings 4:24, 25).

David's Pronouncements (1 Chronicles 28:5–8) Solomon Chosen to Be King (v. 5)

1. Why did David call such a huge and impressive group of people together at this time? (v. 5)

It was a very important occasion, so David amassed a huge gathering. "And David assembled all the princes of Israel, the princes of the tribes, and the captains of the companies that ministered to the king by course, and the captains over the thousands, and captains over the hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possession of the king, and of his sons, with the officers, and with the mighty men, and with all the valiant men, unto Jerusalem" (v. 1). David called a convocation of all his officials and all their subordinates to declare who is chosen to sit on David's throne.

David had six *sons* born from six different wives during his seven and one-half years in Hebron (2 Samuel 3:2–5; 1 Chronicles 3:1–4). When David made Jerusalem his capital, he took more concubines and wives, and more children were born (2 Samuel 5:13–16; 1 Chronicles 3:5–9; 14:3–7).

Indeed, God gave David *many sons*. But of all these it is *Solomon* (who is not David's firstborn) whom God has chosen to sit on David's *throne*.

You might remember that prior to David's public announcement regarding Solomon, Adonijah attempted a coup and had himself proclaimed king over Israel (1 Kings 1). As soon as David heard about it, however, he had Solomon publicly installed, and God's plan continued as commanded.

2. What promise did God give Solomon concerning His relationship with him as he built the temple? (v. 6)

God had gone further in His communication by saying not only that Solomon would follow David to the throne, but also that Solomon would have the privilege of building a temple for Him. First Chronicles 22:10 says, "He shall build a house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever." In the present gathering David repeated God's words exactly and repeated them to the crowd he had assembled.

Of particular note should be God's statement about choosing Solomon as a son and being a Father to him. This indicates that He intended to maintain the same relationship with Solomon that He had had with David throughout his lifetime and reign.

David's emphasis on God's choices establishes the fact of His sovereignty and grace. David had not acted on his own ambitions either in his ascension to the throne or in Solomon's. It was "the kingdom of the Lord" (1 Chron. 8:5) that was involved.

3. Solomon had an important task, as did each of the workers involved in the temple's construction and maintenance. What work has God called you to do? If you have not discovered how you can contribute to the kingdom work, what can you do to discover your role?

We see in Ephesians 2:10 that God has designed us to fulfill a purpose for His kingdom. If you are seeking your niche in the body of Christ, pray. God has given us His Holy Spirit to guide us. Ask God to show you. Then watch for His response. But don't just sit around doing nothing while you wait for that response. Get involved in one of your church's ministries. The successes or roadblocks you encounter may be part of God's response.

If it doesn't seem like God has given you anything big to do, do the small things around you with great gusto. Your faithfulness in smaller tasks may lead to an opportunity to expand your responsibilities. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10).

4. How long did God promise that Solomon's throne would endure? (v. 7)

Of equal importance was God's statement "I will establish his kingdom for ever." This was part of the Davidic covenant, and it was now being applied to Solomon before the people gathered for this occasion. This will ultimately be fulfilled when Jesus reigns. His reign will come with the millennial kingdom as He rules the entire world from Jerusalem. It should be a great encouragement to all believers to realize that we will one day be part of that!

As for Solomon, however, there was special and critical condition that he had to fulfill. He had to remain faithful to God if he was to be as fully blessed as God intended. The word "if" in 1 Chronicles 28:7 sets up this conditional statement. Everything God wanted for Solomon would happen if he faithfully obeyed God's commandments and judgments, as was happening presently under David. It is a clear reminder to all of us of the importance of obeying God's Word at all times. This is the way to receive His richest blessings.

Charge to the People-

5. Why did David publicly remind Solomon of the conditions that were placed on this promise? (v. 8)

David publicly reminded Solomon of these things in the presence of all Israel gathered before them. The message was not for Solomon alone. Everybody needed to understand the importance of seeking out God's ways and will and then living according to them. Then and only then could they be assured of staying in the land God had given them and passing it on to the future generations. We know from the prophets and the warnings God repeatedly sent through them that if Israel wandered from God, they would lose their land.

This was eventually fulfilled in the captivities. Assyria and later Babylon became God's instruments of punishment.

David's Command (1 Chronicles 28:9-10)

Charge to Solomon (v. 9)

6. When David addressed Solomon directly, what did he emphasize? (v. 9)

At this point David turned his attention to Solomon. What he had to say to his son was also important for those listening. As wonderful as it would be to build a temple that would give honor and glory to God, even more important was obedience to Him. Two verbs stand out: "know" Him and "serve" Him. It is impossible, of course, for a person to serve God effectively if he does not know Him well.

Enough had been revealed about God that Solomon could easily understand who He is and what He wants. Even more so is this true for us, since we have the completed Scriptures. Modern-day society promotes an attitude of self-exaltation, leading to a philosophy that says we can do whatever makes us happy or feel good. The result of such thinking with regard to the Bible is that we can pick and choose which parts we want to believe and obey. Those things that may seem to hinder our happiness can simply be ignored.

This is completely contrary to what God has told us in His Word. If we realized that the greatest happiness comes from obeying God and thus maintaining a close relationship with Him, we would be eager to follow His will. What Solomon was being told was all for his benefit, not to hamper his happiness or effectiveness. What God wants is a heart loyal to Him and a mind that is totally willing to obey. There is no escape from this requirement, because God knows everyone's heart and will.

7. Why do you think that our relationship with God is more important than our work for God? Or is it our work for God that reveals the quality of our relationship with God? Explain.

David was careful to give Solomon not only his work assignment, but also his life assignment. It is easy to get caught up in tasks and lose track of how far we're drifting from God.

Jesus had harsh words for those who had plenty of (seemingly) good works, but whose relationship with God was all wrong (Matthew 15:8; 23:1-36). First Corinthians 13 shows that improper hearts and motives can invalidate talents and accomplishments. "For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalm 51:16, 17).

8. What warning accompanied God's promise to Solomon? (v. 9b)

The charge to Solomon here could become a motto for all: "...if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever." No great task can be done *for* God unless one first comes to terms *with* God himself. One must *know* the Lord first before one can *serve* faithfully.

When David told Solomon to know the Lord, he certainly was not talking about mere head knowledge. Solomon already possessed that. David was referring to an intimacy with God that goes beyond intellectual understanding. It was this relationship that Solomon was to seek after with all his heart. The building of the temple—indeed, the success of Solomon's entire reign—is contingent upon a personal and covenantal relationship with God by Solomon.

It is a sad situation in our day that many have a head knowledge of God without an intimate relationship that affects the way they live their daily lives. Many faithful church attendees are believers in name only, not in reality. Those who walk daily with God endeavor to read His Word every day and to spend quality time with Him in prayer. How many are there, however, who spend time in God's Word only when they are in church listening to a lesson or sermon? How many begin each day without taking time to talk to Him?

9. What was so important about what David was saying to Solomon? (v. 10)

The words "take heed" mean Solomon was to consider very carefully what his father David had told him. The charge being delivered to him was no light matter but one of extreme importance. It is like saying, "Be alert to God's call upon your life!"

God is the one who has *chosen* Solomon to *build* a temple on Mount Zion. The pages of Scripture tell us that it is not an easy life to be handpicked by God. God calls His servants to all kinds of tasks, but this temple-building task for Solomon is a

major challenge. And so David charges his son to "be strong, and do it." Don't we all need someone to provide this kind of encouragement at times?

10. There is a saying, "God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called." Do you agree with this saying? Why, or why not?

We may find ourselves disagreeing with the saying when we're looking at our weakness as an excuse for not doing something! Yet Scripture and church history are filled with unlikely "heroes of the faith." Don't ever feel too small to accept God's call on you (Exodus 4:10-12; Jeremiah 1:6-10; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29). As has been said, "You can never be too small for God to use, only too big."

**David's Exhortations (1 Chronicles 28:20, 21)
Regarding Character, and Workers (vs. 20,21)**

11. What things did David do to help Solomon get started with the task? (vs. 20, 21)

Here David repeated and enlarged upon his charge to Solomon: "Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord."

One of the covenantal promises that Solomon receives is that of the presence of God himself. He will be there to strengthen and inspire Solomon. Solomon has been chosen for a huge task, and it cannot be done alone. God must be with him.

David told Solomon that God would be with him through the completion of the work. We have a similar assurance. The Apostle Paul, in Philippians 1:6, wrote, "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." To the Christians at Corinth Paul wrote, "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9). We need this kind of reminder to encourage us to be faithful.

David then reiterated that he had collected everything Solomon needed for the task at hand. Not only had God devised the necessary organization of the priests and Levites, but He also provided the craftsmen who could do the actual work. Many different men of varying skills would be needed because of the variety of the materials used and the objects to be fashioned. God had planned every minute detail of the project because it was so dear to His own heart. Furthermore, David assured Solomon that God had placed all the people at his disposal for this glorious task.

CONCLUSION

Let me encourage you to listen to God's calling as you discover your spiritual giftedness. When you do, you will find a need in the world you can fill for Christ. Even in retirement, many senior citizens have been given new life by finding such a calling and fulfilling it.

If you wish to make a great contribution to the kingdom of God, first you must have a spiritually healthy attitude concerning who and whose you are. As a child of God, you should have no problem accepting yourself as God's most prized treasure (compare Exodus 19:5).

Second, you need to realize that great achievements require great struggle. Third, expect that great struggle will yield discouragement at times. That is what forces us to lean on God's Spirit to accomplish the task. No one can accomplish great tasks alone. That thought has kept me in the fray when giving up would have been easy. Choose now to make a difference for Christ in the world.

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

Expect God's help.

PRAYER

Our Father, creator of the earth, the great builder of this universe, use us in Your kingdom to accomplish Your will. For whatever You have called us to do, equip us, motivate us, and give us assurance that You are with us in the task of Your calling. Help us to make a great contribution to Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Our lesson for Easter seeks to connect 2 Chronicles 6:12-17, and Luke 24:44-49. Have your students consider the promise given by God in 2 Chronicles 6:16 along with the fact that Jesus came to minister, die, and rise again to preserve the royal dynasty that began with David and was passed down to his divine descendant.

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.